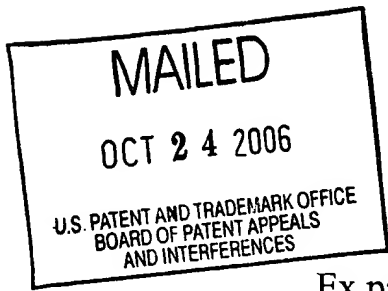


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

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Ex parte GEORGE P. COPELAND, MICHAEL H. CONNER  
and GREGORY A. FLURRY

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Application 09/740,531

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ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

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This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on October 3, 2006. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

Upon review of the Examiner's Answer filed on May 2, 2006, there is no indication that an appeal conference has been conducted.

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See, § 1207.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) (8th Ed., Rev. 3, August 2005) it states:

On the examiner's answer, below the primary examiner's signature, the word "Conferees:" should be included, followed by the typed or printed names of the other two appeal conference participants. These two appeal conference participants must place their initials next to their name. This will make the record clear that an appeal conference has been held. [Emphasis added.]

Further, on January 21, 2005, appellants filed a paper entitled "NOTICE OF APPEAL", which authorized payment of any fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-3268/5468-05700. The fees for the Notice of Appeal and Appeal Brief have not been charged.

Accordingly, it is

**ORDERED** that the application is being electronically returned to the Examiner for taking corrective action regarding the appeal conference, for charging

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the Notice of Appeal and Appeal Brief fees to the Deposit Account No. 50-3268/5468-05700, and for such further action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

By: *G. P. Edgell for Dale Shaw*  
DALE M. SHAW  
Deputy Chief Appeals Administrator  
(571) 272-9797

GJH

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